(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Telephone is available practically on demand in all telephone exchages of Madurai, Dindigul and Theni Districts as on 31.3.2002, except technically non-feasible cases. The waiting list in these districts is 929,2715 and 232 respectively as on 31.3.2002.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Three Remote Subscriber Units (RSUs) of capacity 1000, 2000, and 3000 lines are planned during 2002-2003 in Madurai Local telephone system. In addition it has been planned to cover Madurai city by Cellular Mobile Telephone system and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system during the current year.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Transfer of executive engineer

†5287. SHRI MUNNAVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the Executive engineer (Civil) was transferred in June, 2001 from MTNL Delhi to Postal Wing but he did not join and after that he was transferred to Bhopal and then to Hyderabad and yet he did not join and after that the said engineer joined the duty only when he was transferred to BSNL Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that said Engineer has been paid enhanced rate of leave salary and medical reimbursement amounting to Rs. 3,000 by the Principal Chief Engineer (Civil) in contravention of rules; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The officer was transferred from MTNL to Department of Post vide order No. 7-8-2001-CWG dated 18-06-01. The officer was on medical leave from 15.06.01 *i.e.* prior to issue of his transfer order. The officer remained on medical leave upto 9.12.01 and on earned leave from 10.12.01 to 27.12.01 and joined BSNL, Delhi on 28.12.01.

(c) and (d) The officer has been paid salary at the rates applicable in MTNL in accordance with rules.

Waiting list for telephone connection in Punjab

5288. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the waiting list of telephone connections in various districts of Punjab at present, exchange-wise;

(b) since when these are pending and by when it is likely to be cleared;

(c) whether any new telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened to meet the demand of the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Out of total 1421 exchanges in Punjab, there are only 565 exchanges where waiting list is pending. The exchange wise details in each District, the date from which pending and the likely date of clearance is given in the Annexure [See Appendix 195, Annexure No. 48]. The clearance is subject to timely availability of material.

(c) and (d) New exchanges are being planned wherever required to clear the pending waiting list.